

# ACTION

PICTURE  
LIBRARY

No. 25 1/3

EIRE 16

The central illustration depicts a dramatic underwater scene. Two divers are shown in a perilous situation. The diver in the foreground is positioned upside down, with a large, jagged, red, bone-like structure piercing through his mask and chest. The diver in the background is also upside down, looking directly at the viewer with a determined expression. The background is a murky, greenish-yellow underwater environment with some indistinct structures.

# TIME FUSE

*Stand by for an onslaught of action-packed thrills*

# **WAR PICTURE LIBRARY SPECIAL EXTRA**

*4 gripping stories in one 224-page bumper special 3/-*

## **THE LIONHEARTS**

He drove men ruthlessly in preparation for the day of battle—for it would only be the strong who survived.

## **CODE OF HONOUR**

Only an officer's courage and leadership can earn him the respect of the men serving under him.

## **MISSION FOR HEROES**

It was a task only the toughest could handle, yet it was an ordinary seaman who stood between the three VCs and failure.

## **DIRECT HIT**

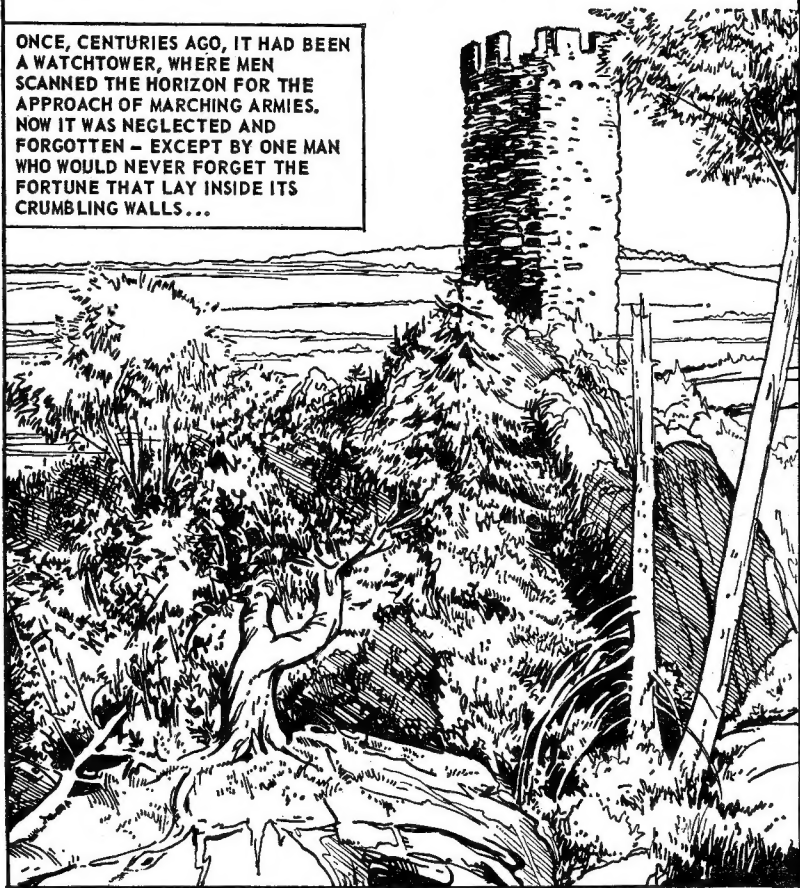
They flew together—each man drawing on the courage of the other—each wondering who would be first to break.

*Don't miss it... it's on sale Friday August 21*



# Time Fuse

ONCE, CENTURIES AGO, IT HAD BEEN A WATCHTOWER, WHERE MEN SCANNED THE HORIZON FOR THE APPROACH OF MARCHING ARMIES. NOW IT WAS NEGLECTED AND FORGOTTEN - EXCEPT BY ONE MAN WHO WOULD NEVER FORGET THE FORTUNE THAT LAY INSIDE ITS CRUMBLING WALLS...



THE DAY COMMANDER PAUL JONES WAS INVALIDED OUT OF THE NAVY, HE BEGAN THE TASK OF CARING FOR OTHERS WHO LIKE HIMSELF HAD BEEN DISABLED.



LESLIE CRAIG, THE COMMANDER'S CHIEF INSTRUCTOR AT THE HOME FOR HANDICAPPED BOYS, WAS ENJOYING THE EARLY MORNING SUNSHINE WHEN HE HEARD A SHOUT FROM THE HOUSE...



JOE RATCLIFFE HAD SERVED WITH THE COMMANDER DURING THE WAR, NOW HE TOO HAD JOINED THE STAFF OF THE COMMANDER'S HOME...



WE'VE ALREADY GOT ONE OF OVER THREE THOUSAND POUNDS! IT'S MY FAULT - BAD BUSINESS MAN, I GUESS...

DON'T BLAME YOURSELF, COMMANDER. NOBODY COULD HAVE DONE MORE. WHEN DOES THE CHOPPER FALL?



LES CRAIG LOOKED OUT OF THE WINDOW AT THE BOYS IN THE GROUNDS. HE DID NOT RELISH THE TASK OF TELLING THEM THE NEWS...

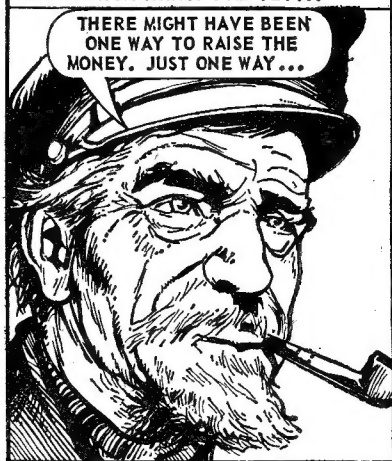
NOT LONG. A FEW WEEKS AT MOST. TIME YOU TWO LOOKED FOR ANOTHER JOB. I'M SORRY...

IT'S THE LADS I FEEL SORRY FOR - SOME OF THEM ARE REALLY BEGINNING TO MAKE PROGRESS. AND NOW THIS...



COMMANDER JONES KNEW HOW LES FELT. ALL THE YEARS OF WORK GONE FOR NOTHING. AND YET...

THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ONE WAY TO RAISE THE MONEY. JUST ONE WAY...



AT THE COMMANDER'S WORDS, LES TURNED EAGERLY FROM THE WINDOW...

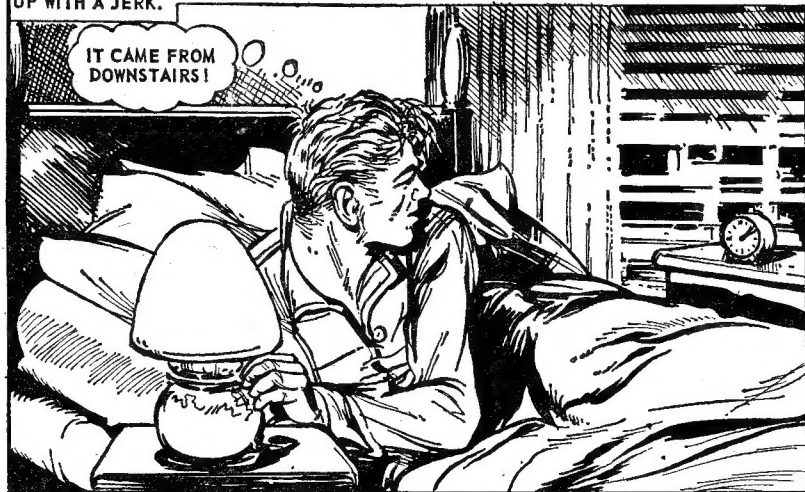
THEN WHY DON'T YOU TAKE IT?

BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO. LEAVE IT AT THAT. I DON'T WANT TO EVEN TALK ABOUT IT!



LES CRAIG SLEPT BADLY THAT NIGHT AND A SUDDEN SOUND AT ABOUT 2 a.m. WOKE HIM UP WITH A JERK.

IT CAME FROM DOWNSTAIRS!



AS LES WENT DOWN THE STAIRS, HE COULD HEAR MUFFLED VOICES COMING FROM THE COMMANDER'S ROOM...



LES OPENED THE DOOR. THERE WERE THREE STRANGERS IN THE ROOM AND ONE OF THEM HAD A KNIFE AT COMMANDER JONES' THROAT...





WITHIN SECONDS, THE ROOM WAS IN CHAOS...



THE NEXT SECOND, JOE RATCLIFFE CAME THROUGH THE DOOR. DESPITE HIS AGE, HE DID NOT HESITATE...



JOE SENT ONE MAN CRASHING ACROSS THE ROOM – THEN HE TURNED TO THE BED...

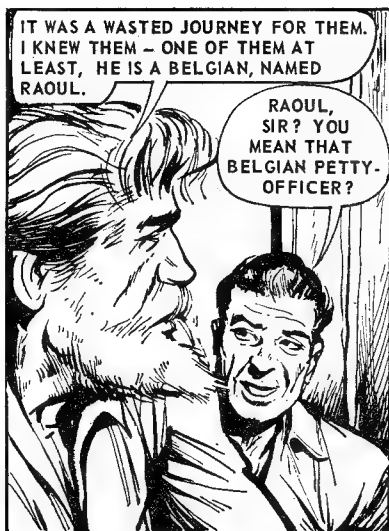


THE MAN WITH THE KNIFE STRUCK OUT VICIOUSLY AND FOUND HIS WRIST  
CAUGHT IN A VICE-LIKE GRIP...



SUDDENLY THE INTRUDERS MADE A RUSH FOR THE WINDOW THAT LED INTO  
THE GROUNDS...





"IT HAD BEEN HARD, EXHAUSTING AND DANGEROUS WORK. EVERY PORT HELD A STOCK OF SEA-MINES. EVERY ONE HAD TO BE DISMANTLED..."

THIS IS  
THE LAST  
ONE FOR THE DAY,  
CHIEF. AND WE'RE  
TAKING A  
DAY OFF  
TOMORROW.

GLAD TO  
HEAR THAT,  
SIR. WANT TO  
RUN INTO BRUSSELS.  
JUST TO TAKE  
A LOOK AT  
THE PLACE!

"YOU'D JUST LEFT FOR THE STORES, JOE, WHEN A JEEP CAME ALONG THE DOCK, DRIVEN BY LIEUTENANT MCKAY. THE MAN WITH HIM WAS RAOUL..."

THERE'S  
THE COMMANDER.  
OUT WITH  
THE BOX,  
RAOUL.

"McKAY AND THE BELGIAN LIFTED A HEAVY SQUARE BOX OUT OF THE BACK OF THE JEEP."

GOT TO  
HIDE THIS  
QUICK, RAOUL,  
UNTIL WE CAN  
GET IT OUT. IT'S  
A GOLD-MINE.



"McKAY DUMPED THE BOX DOWN  
AND EXPLAINED..."

I'VE BEEN DISMANTLING GERMAN  
MINES, SIR. IN EVERY ONE IS A  
TUBE OF PURE MERCURY.  
WE'VE KEPT THE LOT! IT'S WORTH  
THOUSANDS ON THE BLACK MARKET...



YOU DID WHAT? THAT'S  
ASKING FOR TROUBLE!

I'VE GOT TROUBLE ALL RIGHT.  
WE TRIED TO DO A DEAL, BUT  
THE MILITARY POLICE GOT WIND  
OF IT. THEY'RE ON OUR TRAIL  
RIGHT NOW! I NEED YOUR HELP,  
COMMANDER!



"I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND AT FIRST WHY  
McKAY HAD COME TO ME..."

BUT I'M YOUR SENIOR  
OFFICER. I COULD PLACE  
YOU IN IRONS!



BUT YOU OWE ME A FAVOUR. REMEMBER  
THAT AERIAL MINE IN THE THAMES  
- WHEN YOU GOT TRAPPED IN THE MUD?

"I REMEMBERED! McKAY HAD PULLED  
ME CLEAR BEFORE THE MINE EXPLODED.  
HE HAD SAVED MY LIFE. I DID OWE HIM  
A DEBT..."

ALL RIGHT, YOU CAN  
HIDE THE STUFF HERE.



NO! THEY'LL HAVE  
THE DOCK  
SEARCHED. WHY  
NOT TAKE THE  
BOX OUT IN YOUR  
JEEP? THEY  
DON'T SUSPECT YOU?

"I FELT THIS WAS ASKING TOO MUCH. BUT THE MILITARY POLICE CHOSE THAT  
MOMENT TO DRIVE UP. THERE WAS NO TIME TO ARGUE..."

THE REDCAPS!  
WHERE'S YOUR JEEP,  
SIR? HURRY!



I COULD  
BREAK YOUR  
NECK FOR THIS!  
IT'S OVER THERE  
- BACK OF THE  
SHED.

"IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG TO HIDE THE CASE UNDER OUR TOOL CHEST..."

I'LL LAY A FALSE TRAIL  
AND LET 'EM SEARCH US. YOU  
TAKE THE BRUGES ROAD, SIR.  
CATCH YOU UP LATER.

IF IT HADN'T  
BEEN FOR THAT MINE,  
McKAY - I'D HAND YOU  
OVER RIGHT NOW!



"I FOUND OUT AFTERWARDS, JOE, THAT IT WAS ABOUT THAT TIME THAT YOU TRIED TO FIND ME..."

WHERE THE  
DICKENS IS THE  
COMMANDER?

TIENS!  
I DO NOT KNOW!  
WE'VE FOUND A  
MINE IN THE  
WATER!



"BUT BY THEN I WAS ALREADY LEAVING THE DOCKYARD AND GETTING DEEPER INTO TROUBLE..."

EXCUSE ME, SIR. WE'RE LOOKING FOR A NAVY JEEP LIKE THAT. TWO MEN WITH IT, ONE IS A NAVY LIEUTENANT, THE OTHER A BELGIAN PETTY-OFFICER.

HAVEN'T SEEN IT. NOW, OUT OF MY WAY PLEASE. I'M IN A HURRY.



"THEY LET ME PASS, MUST HAVE BEEN MY RANK, I SUPPOSE. IT WAS ON THE BRUGES ROAD THAT MCKAY AND RAOUL CAUGHT ME UP..."

YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN THEIR FACES! THEY EXPECTED TO FIND THE BOX OF LOOT STACKED AT THE BACK.

I HAD TO LIE MY WAY PAST. THIS MERCURY'S GOT TO BE HANDED OVER TO THE PROPER AUTHORITIES, MCKAY!



NOT LIKELY, COMMANDER! WE'RE HANGING ON TO IT. JUST FORGET THIS EVER HAPPENED, SIR. AND WE'LL CALL IT QUITS. YOU OWE ME NOTHING!



"THEN RAOUL SPOTTED A COUPLE OF JEEPS COMING UP FAST..."

THE MILITARY! THEY ARE COMING AFTER US! AND THERE IS AN OFFICER WITH THEM!



"THE PROVOST DEPARTMENT WAS NOT LETTING UP EASILY. THE PROVOST-MARSHAL COULD BALANCE RANK WITH A COMMANDER. THIS TIME I COULDN'T BLUFF MY WAY OUT..."

SORRY ABOUT THIS, COMMANDER, BUT MY MEN WILL HAVE TO SEARCH YOUR JEEP - JUST TO KEEP THE RECORD STRAIGHT.



"LATER, I COULD HAVE KICKED MYSELF FOR DOING IT. I'M STILL NOT SURE WHY I DID IT..."

SORRY, BRIGADIER.  
I DON'T LIKE BEING SEARCHED.  
COME ON, McKAY!



PUT THOSE  
REVOLVERS DOWN,  
YOU FOOLS! GET  
AFTER THEM!



"WE DROVE THROUGH BRUGES AT BREAKNECK SPEED..."



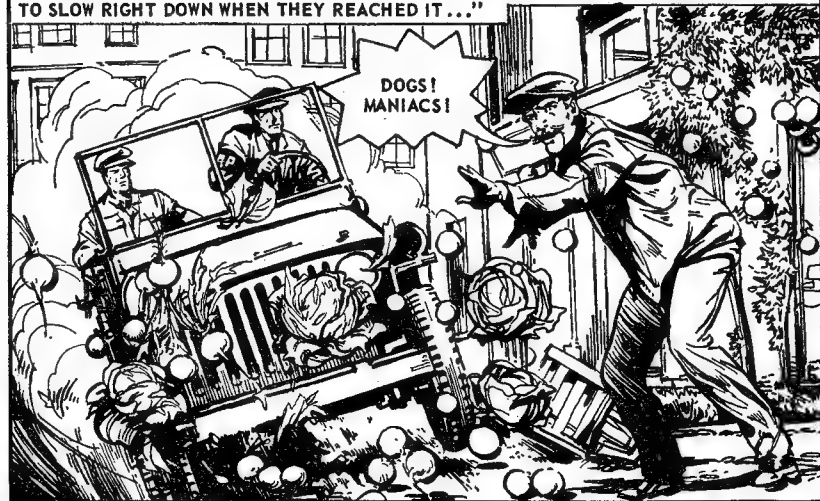
"BUT THE PROVOST BOYS WERE HARD ON OUR HEELS. I COULD HEAR THE BRIGADIER YELLING LIKE FURY..."



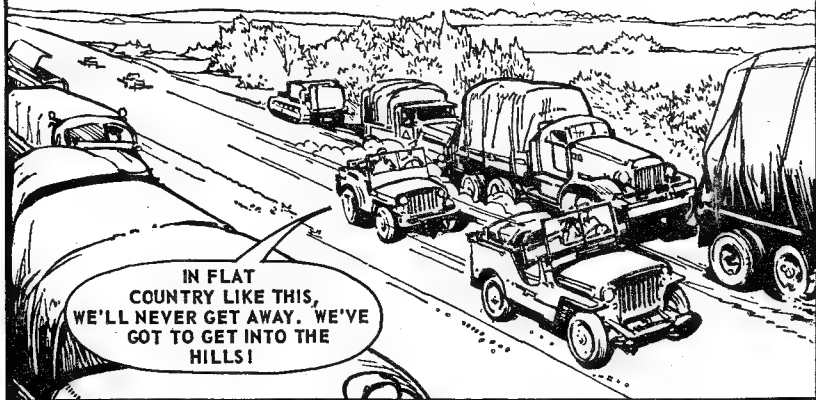
"LOOKING BACK, IT WAS A MIRACLE WE DIDN'T KILL ANYONE. I REMEMBER TWO INCIDENTS IN PARTICULAR..."



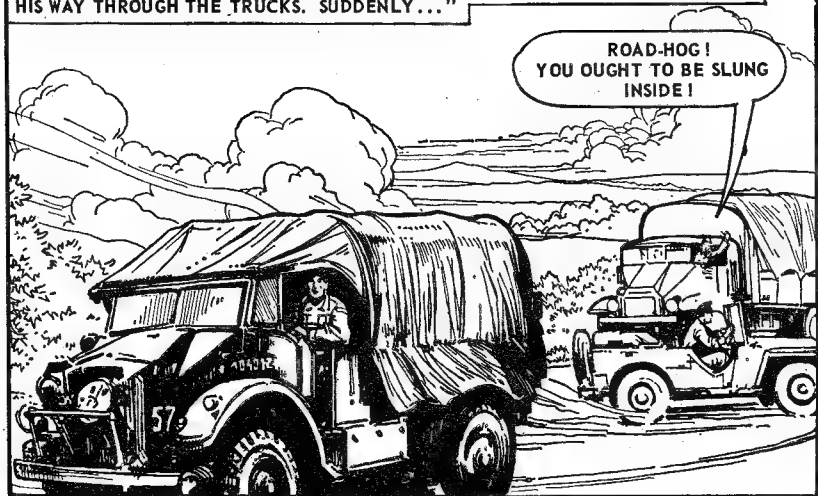
"IT WAS THE VEGETABLE CART THAT GAVE US OUR FIRST BREAK. THE M.P.s HAD TO SLOW RIGHT DOWN WHEN THEY REACHED IT..."



"SOON WE WERE THROUGH THE TOWN AND HEADING EAST ACROSS THE FLAT COUNTRYSIDE."

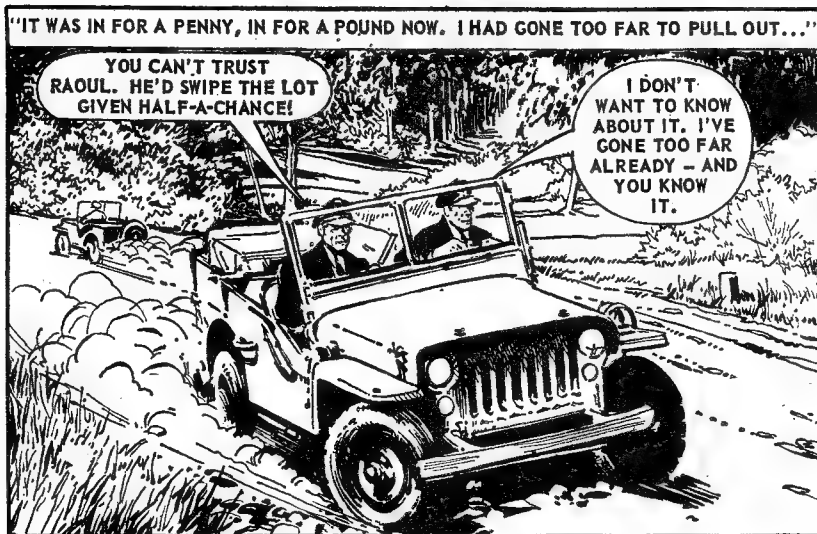


"THERE WAS A LOT OF HEAVY TRAFFIC ON THE ROAD. I SAW MCKAY THREADING HIS WAY THROUGH THE TRUCKS. SUDDENLY ..."



"THE DRIVER SWERVED AND ENDED UP WITH HIS FRONT WHEELS IN A DITCH. WHEN THE M.P. ARRIVED, THE ROAD WAS BLOCKED..."





"WE SAW IT SOON AFTERWARDS ON THE SKYLINE. THE ANCIENT WATCH-TOWER ON  
GUARD LIKE A GRENADIER..."

JUST THE  
SPOT, COMMANDER!  
THAT TOWER HAS BEEN  
THERE FOR CENTURIES.  
IT'LL BE HERE FOR ANOTHER  
MONTH OR TWO AND WILL  
BE EASY TO FIND  
AGAIN!



"INSIDE, THE OLD WALLS HAD ALREADY SEEN MUCH WEAR AND TEAR, YET THE  
STONES TOOK SOME DIGGING OUT."

WE'LL CACHE THE STUFF INSIDE  
HERE AND FACE UP THE HOLE AGAIN  
ALL TIDY AND SHIPSHAPE.



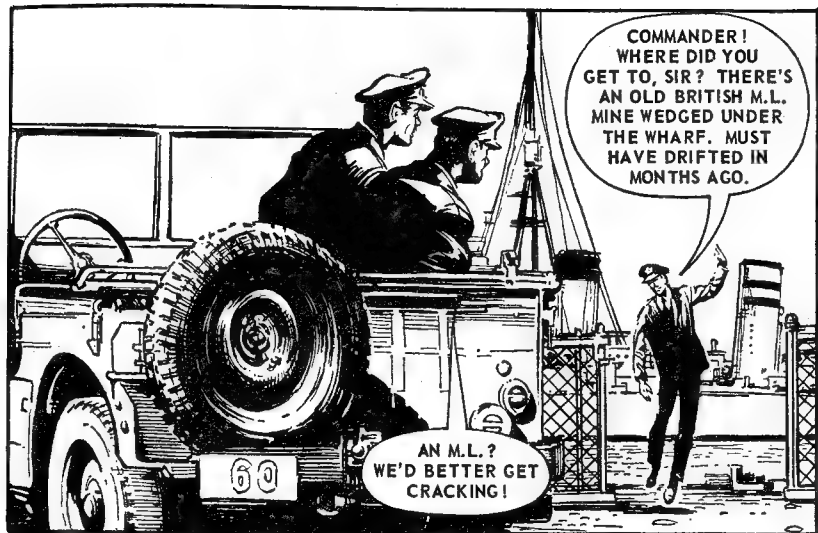
"WE HAD REACHED THE LOWER ROAD AND WERE HEADING FOR LIEGE, WHEN WE RAN INTO TROUBLE AGAIN..."



"BUT WHEN THEY STOPPED US, THEY DIDN'T EVEN MENTION THE STOLEN LOOT..."







"IT WAS NOT THE FIRST TIME JOE MCKAY AND I HAD WORKED TOGETHER ON A DANGEROUS MISSION. BUT WE DID NOT KNOW THEN THAT THIS WAS TO BE THE LAST."



"WE TRIED EVERYTHING TO FREE THE BARNACLE-ENCRUSTED MAIN DETONATOR-FUSE. BUT IT RESISTED ALL OUR EFFORTS."



"FINALLY, WE HAD TO GIVE UP. THERE WAS ONLY ONE COURSE LEFT OPEN TO US NOW..."

WE'VE GOT  
TO GET IT FREE  
OF THE WHARF  
AND PULL IT OUT TO  
SEA. THEN EXPLODE  
IT THERE.

GOOD OLD METHOD  
'C', SIR! OKAY. I'LL BE THE  
UNDERWATER GUY.





"McKAY, AS THE UNDERWATER MAN, HAD THE DEADLY JOB OF FIXING THE CABLES AND THEN STEERING THE MINE AWAY FROM THE PIER..."



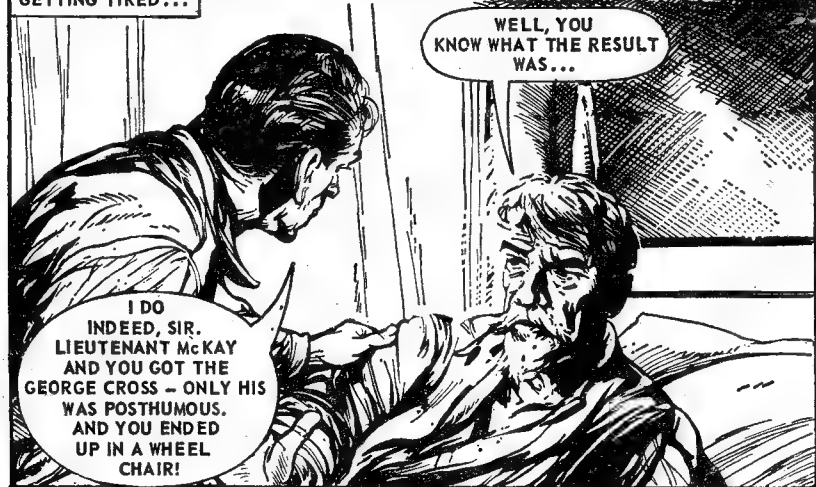
"SLOWLY IT CAME FREE AND FLOATED TO THE SURFACE..."

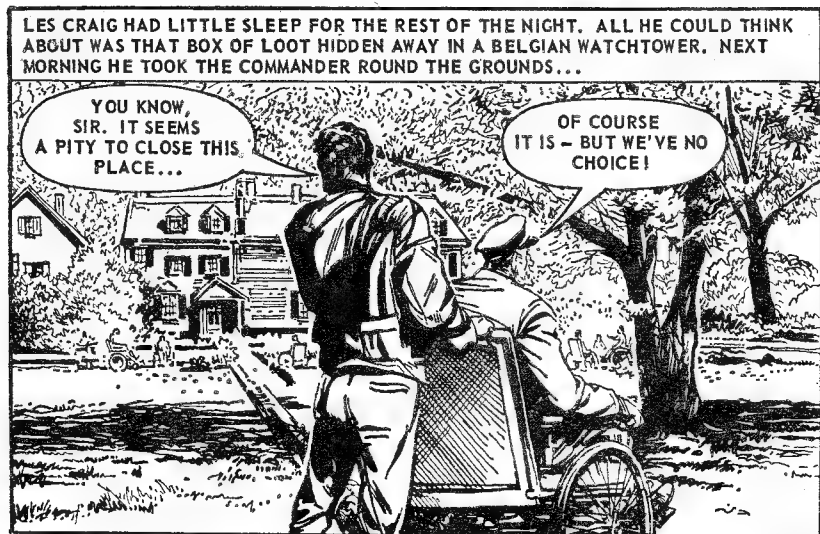
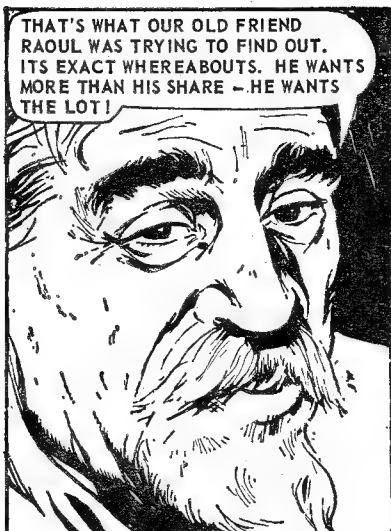


"WE HAD REACHED MID-CHANNEL WHEN IT HAPPENED. WITHOUT WARNING, THE MINE DETONATED WITH A SHATTERING EXPLOSION..."

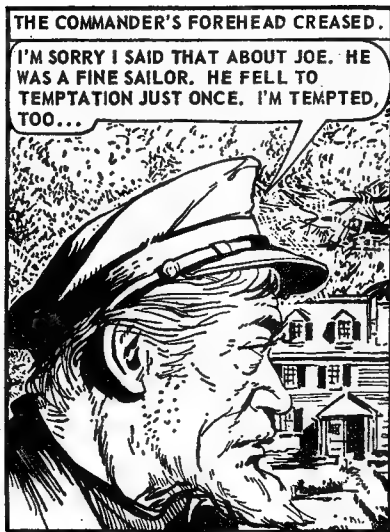


COMMANDER JONES PAUSED. HE HAD TALKED FOR A LONG TIME AND HE WAS GETTING TIRED...









A WEEK LATER, A SPECIALLY-ADAPTED VAN ARRIVED AT ITS DESTINATION IN BELGIUM...



THE PEOPLE AT THE SIDEWALK CAFE WATCHED WITH INTEREST AS A SPECIAL RAMP LOWERED THE COMMANDER'S WHEELCHAIR ON TO THE ROAD...



ONE MAN IN PARTICULAR TOOK CAREFUL NOTE OF THE NEW ARRIVALS...



COMMANDER JONES HERE  
AT LAST! RAOUL, YOUR LUCK  
IS FINALLY CHANGING!



THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE VAN  
HEADED FOR THE MOUNTAINS - AND  
BEHIND IT, CAME A CAR WITH A  
LOAD OF TROUBLE...

DON'T GET TOO CLOSE, PIERRE.  
WE ARE TOO NEAR THE PRIZE  
NOW TO GET CARELESS!



AN HOUR LATER, COMMANDER JONES' VAN TURNED ON TO A NARROW TRACK THAT RAN ALONG THE BASE OF THE TOWER...



IT WAS A LONG HAUL OVER BROKEN GROUND TO THE TOWER, BUT THE COMMANDER HAD COME TOO FAR NOT TO BE IN AT THE FINISH...



IT WAS JUST AS HE REMEMBERED IT,  
THE WALL WAS UNDISTURBED,  
SHOWING THAT THE TOWER HAD  
KEPT ITS SECRET...

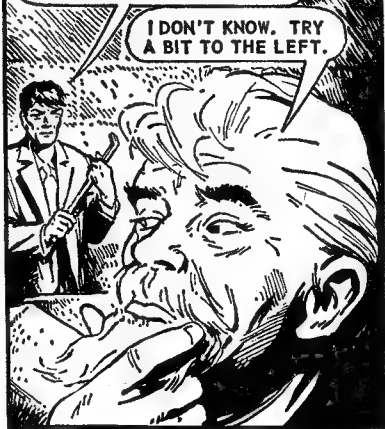
I THINK  
THAT'S THE SPOT,  
JUST THERE!



BUT AFTER TEN MINUTES HARD  
DIGGING AND GOUGING...

NOTHING, SKIPPER. YOU DON'T  
THINK IT'S BEEN LIFTED?

I DON'T KNOW. TRY  
A BIT TO THE LEFT.



THIS TIME THEY WERE IN LUCK...

BY JIMINY!  
IT'S HERE! I CAN  
SEE THE SIDE OF  
THE BOX!

THEN WHAT ARE  
YOU WAITING FOR?  
DIG IT OUT!



MINUTES LATER, THE BOX WAS FREE. WHEN HE SAW IT, ALL COMMANDER JONES' DOUBTS RETURNED...

FOR TWO PINS I'D PUT IT BACK, LES. WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH IT ANYWAY? HAWK IT AROUND THE FENCES AND SPIES OF LONDON?



WE'LL FIND SOMEBODY WHO'LL BUY THE STUFF, SKIPPER! YOU WAIT! ALL WE'VE GOT TO DO IS GET IT BACK THROUGH CUSTOMS. THAT'LL BE THE HARDEST BIT...





AT A WORD FROM RAOUL, ONE OF THE MEN GRABBED A TYRE LEVER AND PRISED OPEN THE BOX LID. THE SIGHT THAT WAS REVEALED TOOK THEIR BREATH AWAY...



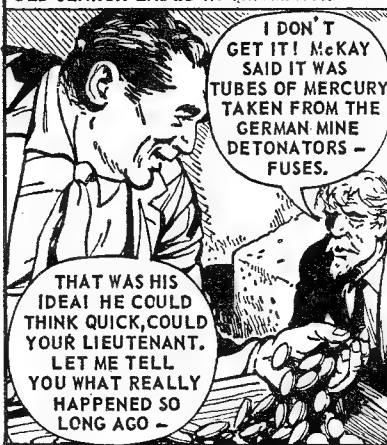
WHEW!

COINS?  
THEY'RE NOT MERCURY  
TUBES!

BEAUTIFUL FRENCH GOLD  
NAPOLEONS, COMMANDER. WORTH  
MORE AS ANTIQUES THAN AS GOLD  
— BUT WE'LL BE SATISFIED WITH  
THE MELTED-DOWN FIGURE!



THE BELGIAN WAS ENJOYING HIM-  
SELF. IT WAS A DREAM COME  
TRUE, A TWENTY-FOUR YEARS  
OLD SEARCH ENDED IN TRIUMPH...



I DON'T  
GET IT! McKAY  
SAID IT WAS  
TUBES OF MERCURY  
TAKEN FROM THE  
GERMAN MINE  
DETONATORS —  
FUSES.

THAT WAS HIS  
IDEAL! HE COULD  
THINK QUICK, COULD  
YOUR LIEUTENANT.  
LET ME TELL  
YOU WHAT REALLY  
HAPPENED SO  
LONG AGO —

THE BELGIAN EX-PETTY OFFICER  
TOOK THEM BACK TO THAT WAR-  
SCARRED COASTLINE OF 1946...

YOU WILL REMEMBER  
THAT WHEN YOU WERE WORKING  
AT LICHTEN, McKAY AND I  
WERE WORKING AS A  
SEPARATE TEAM FARTHER  
UP THE COAST...



"BECAUSE OF THE RISK OF AN EXPLOSION, WE HAD CHOSEN TO WORK AT NIGHT,  
WHEN THE DOCKYARD AND WHARVES WERE EMPTY OF MEN..."

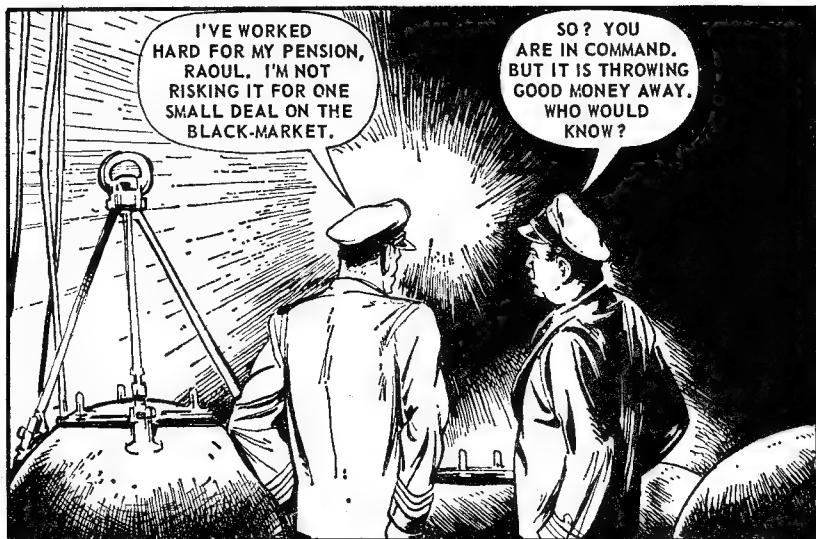
AH, ANOTHER ONE!  
PURE MERCURY, LIEUTENANT.  
IT IS WORTH MUCH...

THAT MAY BE,  
BUT WE TURN IT IN,  
UNDERSTAND?



I'VE WORKED  
HARD FOR MY PENSION,  
RAOUL. I'M NOT  
RISKING IT FOR ONE  
SMALL DEAL ON THE  
BLACK-MARKET.

SO? YOU  
ARE IN COMMAND.  
BUT IT IS THROWING  
GOOD MONEY AWAY.  
WHO WOULD  
KNOW?



"WE CARRIED ON WORKING AND AT ABOUT THREE O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING WE HEARD THE SOUND OF OARS."

A BOAT? AT THIS TIME? WHO CAN IT BE?

I DON'T KNOW. KEEP OUT OF SIGHT. WE'LL SOON FIND OUT.



"THERE WERE TWO AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN THE BOAT WHEN IT REACHED THE JETTY..."

STEADY WITH IT!  
FOR PETE'S SAKE DON'T  
SINK IT NOW!

YOU  
BETCHA LIFE!



SHOVE IT OUT  
OF SIGHT SOMEWHERE  
UNTIL WE GET RID  
OF THE BOAT.

OKAY.



"THE AMERICANS HID THEIR BOX RIGHT AT OUR FEET. WHEN THEY WENT BACK TO THEIR BOAT, McKAY AND I TOOK A LOOK INSIDE THE BOX..."

GOLD  
COINS! FRENCH  
NAPOLEONS! WHERE  
DID THEY GET  
THEM?

THAT'S EASY!  
LOOTING IS A MAJOR  
INDUSTRY IN EUROPE  
JUST NOW!



"I COULD SEE FROM YOUR  
LIEUTENANT'S EYES THAT HE WAS  
THINKING ALONG THE SAME LINES  
AS MYSELF..."

WITH THIS BOX OF WEALTH, YOU  
COULD FORGET YOUR PENSION!  
MERCURY TUBES ARE CHICKEN-  
FEED COMPARED TO WHAT WE  
HAVE HERE!

AND THOSE TWO YANKS  
HAVE LIFTED IT FROM  
SOME GERMAN WHO HAD  
LOOTED IT FIRST!



"IT WAS THE TEMPTATION OF A  
LIFE-TIME..."

THOSE YANKS ARE PROBABLY  
ON THE RUN ANYWAY!

NOW YOU TALK GOOD  
SENSE, M'SIEUR! WHY  
HAVE PITY FOR TWO  
THIEVES ON THE RUN?



"WHEN THE AMERICANS CAME BACK FOR THE GOLD WE WERE READY FOR THEM..."



"ONE OF THE YANKS REALISED THAT THEIR  
'GAME' HAD BEEN DISCOVERED..."

WE LIFTED 'EM  
FROM SOME LOUSY KRAUT  
WHO WAS TRYING TO GET  
'EM BACK TO GERMANY.  
THEY'RE OURS, MISTER,  
OURS!



ALL RIGHT, I'M GIVING YOU A  
CHANCE. GET MOVING - AND DON'T  
STOP MOVING UNTIL YOU GET  
BACK TO YOUR UNIT. YOU CAN  
LEAVE YOUR LOOT WITH US...

WHY,  
YOU NO  
GOOD...



"AS THE TRUTH SUNK IN, THE AMERICANS WENT BERSERK..."





"LUCKILY, McKAY SAW THE GUN  
IN THE AMERICAN'S HAND ..."

AAARCH !



"McKAY WAS WALKING AWAY IN A DAZE WHEN THE OTHER AMERICAN CAME ROUND.  
THE ENGLISHMAN TURNED WHEN HE HEARD MY SHOT ..."

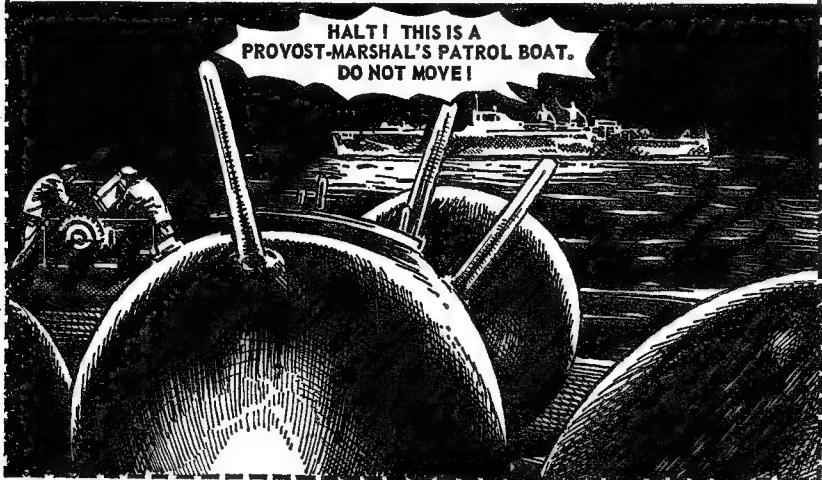
WHAT THE ?  
RAOUL !  
ISN'T KILLING ONE OF  
THEM ENOUGH?

HE WAS  
REGAINING  
CONSCIOUSNESS.  
IT IS BETTER  
THIS WAY. NOW  
THERE ARE NO  
WITNESSES.




"THERE WAS NO TURNING BACK NOW. WE WEIGHTED THE BODIES AND SLID THEM OFF THE WHARF. THEN, AS WE WERE LOADING THE BOX INTO OUR JEEP..."

HALT! THIS IS A  
PROVOST-MARSHAL'S PATROL BOAT.  
DO NOT MOVE!




OF COURSE WE DID MOVE -  
AND FAST! BUT THEY THREW  
A CORDON AROUND THE TOWN.  
IT WAS THEN THAT McKAY  
DECIDED TO COME TO YOU  
FOR HELP, COMMANDER...



... WITH THAT STORY  
ABOUT THE MERCURY!

YES, HE GUESSED  
A BOX-FULL OF GOLD  
COINS WOULD BE TOO  
DISHONEST FOR YOU. BUT A FEW  
TUBES OF MERCURY?

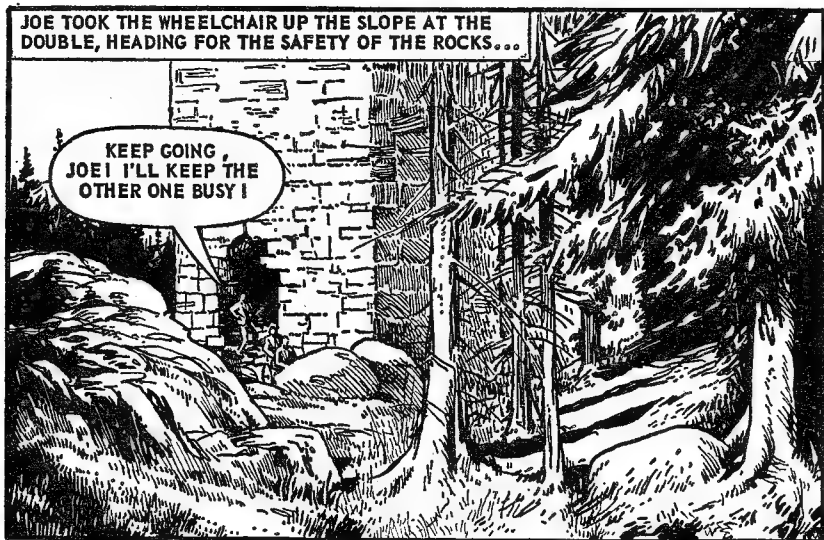




LES GRABBED THE GUN WHILE JOE RATCLIFFE TOOK CARE OF ONE OF THE OTHER BELGIANS...



JOE TOOK THE WHEELCHAIR UP THE SLOPE AT THE DOUBLE, HEADING FOR THE SAFETY OF THE ROCKS...



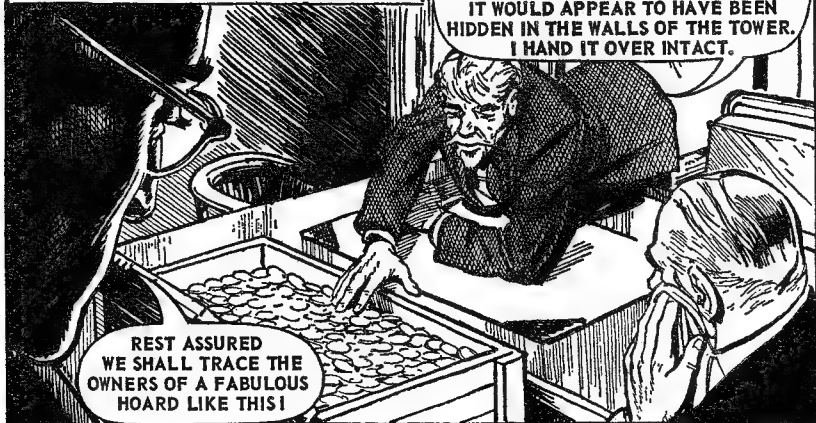


THE ROCK MUST HAVE STRUCK DEAD AGAINST THE WEAKENED PART OF THE WALL. THE ANCIENT TOWER WHICH HAD STOOD SO LONG REELED UNDER THE IMPACT AND WITH A DULL RUMBLE IT SLOWLY COLLAPSED...



THERE WAS NO ALTERNATIVE NOW. YET THE COMMANDER WAS DETERMINED TO KEEP THE NAME OF JOE MCKAY OUT OF ALL ENQUIRIES, AND IT WAS NOT QUITE THE FULL STORY HE TOLD TO THE AUTHORITIES.

WE WERE AT A DISTANCE WHEN WE SAW THE TOWER COLLAPSE. ON REACHING IT, WE FOUND THE BODIES OF THREE MEN - AND ALSO THE BOX. FROM ITS APPEARANCE, IT WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN HIDDEN IN THE WALLS OF THE TOWER. I HAND IT OVER INTACT.



A WEEK LATER, THE COMMANDER WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF WINDING UP THE HOME, WHEN HE HAD AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR...



THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL DID NOT GET A CHANCE  
TO SAY ANY MORE BEFORE PANDEMONIUM BROKE OUT...

WHAT HAVE I  
DONE? EVERYONE HAS  
GONE MAD!

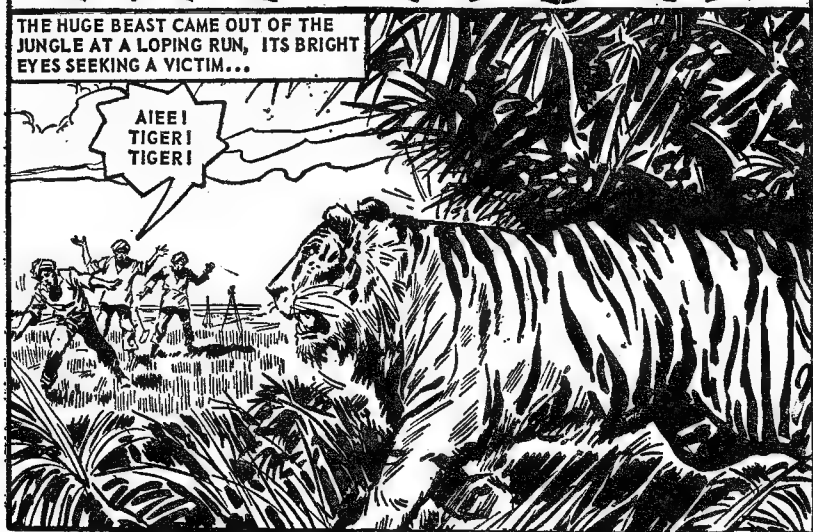
EVERYBODY  
BACK TO QUARTERS!  
WE WANTED A  
MIRACLE AND WE'VE  
GOT ONE!

HURRAY!



# THE TIGER

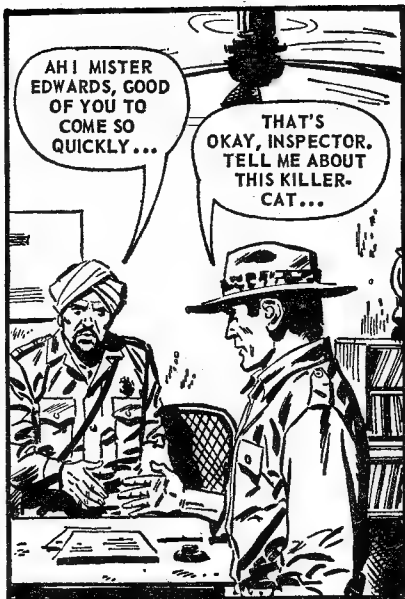
THE HUGE BEAST CAME OUT OF THE JUNGLE AT A LOPING RUN, ITS BRIGHT EYES SEEKING A VICTIM...



A TIGER WAS NO STRANGE SIGHT FOR THE NATIVES OF BENGAL IN INDIA. BUT THIS ONE THEY FEARED MORE THAN OTHERS, FOR HIS PREY WAS MAN...



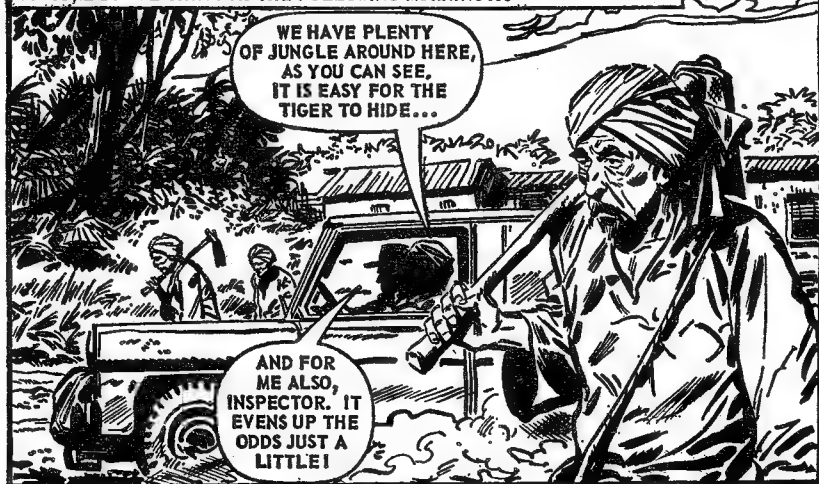
THAT SAME BEAST KILLED AGAIN TWO DAYS LATER - AND THAT BROUGHT DUNCAN EDWARDS TO THE VILLAGE...



DUNCAN EDWARDS WAS A HUNTER, A MAN EXPERIENCED IN THE WAYS OF INDIA'S MOST DANGEROUS BEAST OF PREY.



THE VILLAGERS WERE JUST MOVING OUT INTO THE FIELDS WHEN EDWARDS' VEHICLE DROVE THROUGH THE FOLLOWING MORNING...

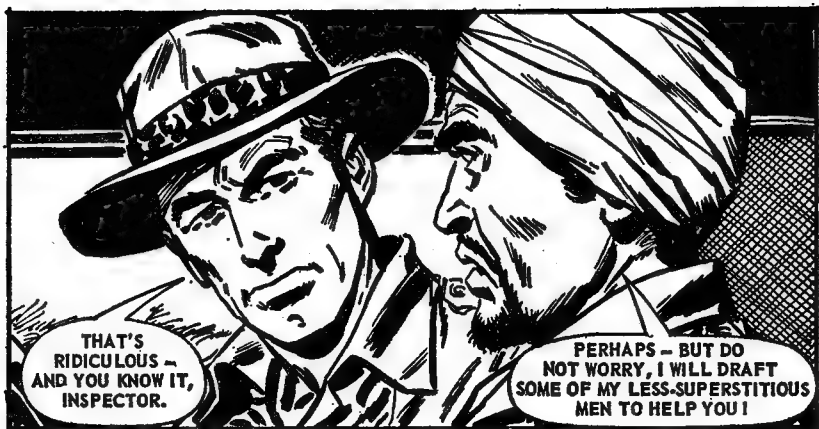


EDWARDS SPOKE TO THE VILLAGE HEADMAN...



EDWARDS ARGUED, BUT IN VAIN.





THREE NIGHTS LATER, EDWARDS WAS SETTLING DOWN IN HIS 'HIDE' TO WAIT...



THERE WAS A GOAT TETHERED AS 'BAIT' IN THE CLEARING BELOW...



A FEW SECONDS LATER, EDWARDS HEARD THE SOFT DEEP GROWL OF THE TIGER, AS IT GOT THE SCENT...



EDWARDS CRADLED THE RIFLE IN HIS HANDS, HIS EYES STRAINING TO PENETRATE THE SHADOWS AT THE JUNGLE'S EDGE...



PATIENTLY, HE WAITED FOR THE TIGER TO PAD OUT INTO THE MOONLIGHT...



HIS FINGER WAS SQUEEZING THE TRIGGER WHEN A CLOUD SCURRIED ACROSS THE FACE OF THE MOON. HE WAS NOW COMMITTED TO THE SHOT!



THE GREAT BEAST GAVE A ROAR OF PAIN. EDWARDS SWIFTLY, WORKED THE BOLT OF HIS RIFLE AND LOOSED OFF ANOTHER ROUND...

HADES!  
I ONLY WINGED  
HIM!



THE TIGER THRASHED AWAY INTO THE JUNGLE - AND THE HUNTER WAS TOO EXPERIENCED TO RISK FOLLOWING IT...

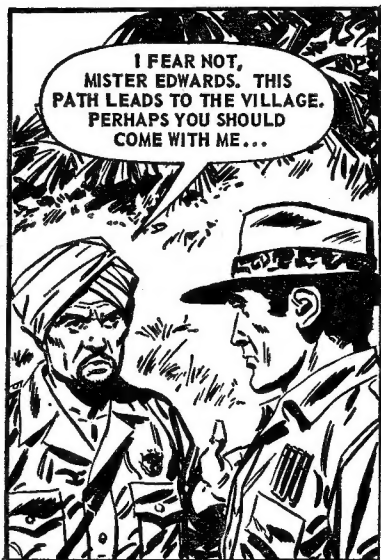
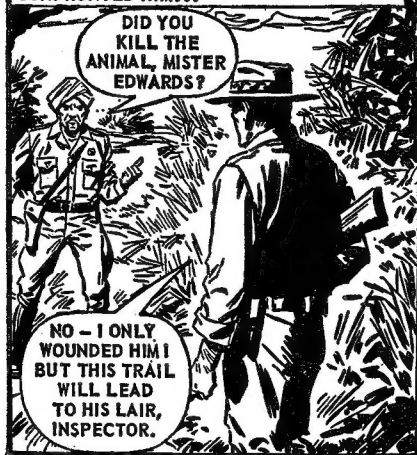
HE'S HEADING FOR  
HIS LAIR! AND THAT'S  
WHERE I'LL FIND HIM  
IN THE MORNING!



AT FIRST LIGHT, EDWARDS HAD NO TROUBLE FOLLOWING THE TRAIL OF HIS QUARRY...



TO HIS SURPRISE, THE TRAIL MOVED ON TO A WELL-TRODDEN TRACK THAT LED OUT OF THE JUNGLE. HE HAD NOT GONE MUCH FARTHER WHEN A FAMILIAR FIGURE CONFRONTED HIM...



THEY ADVANCED INTO THE VILLAGE IN SILENCE, AND THE INSPECTOR STOPPED OUTSIDE ONE OF THE HOUSES...

IN HERE,  
PLEASE, MISTER  
EDWARDS.

WHAT  
IS THIS,  
INSPECTOR?  
SOME KIND OF  
GAME?

THERE WAS A MAN LYING ON THE BED INSIDE. HE WAS COVERED BY A SHEET AND HE WAS DEAD...

THIS MAN WAS FOUND  
THIS MORNING BY ONE OF  
MY MEN. PERHAPS YOU WOULD  
CARE TO EXAMINE HIM?

EDWARDS LIFTED THE SHEET. HE SAW A BULLET WOUND THAT COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN MADE BY A BULLET FROM A GUN SUCH AS HIS...

BUT THIS IS  
MADNESS! I SHOT  
A TIGER OUT THERE  
LAST NIGHT,  
INSPECTOR!

PERHAPS! BUT THESE PEOPLE  
FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THE VILLAGE  
HAS BEEN RID OF THE CURSE  
THAT HUNG OVER IT. WHO KNOWS...?

*Tough...Dramatic...*

# **ACTION**

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### **No. 26**

## **SEA HUNT**

The lone killer whale  
held a deadly secret  
that led to an ocean-wide  
hunt . . .



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